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BOOK NOTICES.

Negligence of Imposed Duties. Personal. By Charles A. Ray, LL.D. 'The Lawyer's Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y. Under this title one might naturally expect to find a treatise wholly upon the subject of negligence. This is not the case. Indeed the title gives but the remotest clue to the contents of the book. With the help of the preface and the introductory chapter, we find that the author has sought to bring together and discuss, those duties imposed upon individuals by reason of their ownership of real property, personal property, and water rights, in restraint of the freedom which would belong to them under "Natural Law." The greater part of the book is given up not to the subject of negligence in its strict and ordinary sense, but to that of the non-performance of these duties. A large part of its subject matter is ordinarily treated under the head of "Nuisances."

The book has many excellencies, but scientific classification and treatment of the subjects are not among them. We find a practical hand-book of many every-day, common, rights and wrongs, reminding one somewhat of Mr. Bishop's "Non-Contract Law," but much narrower in scope than that admirable work.

It is divided into three parts; the first treating of land, the duties respecting it, and rights therein; the second of waters, the duties respecting them and rights therein; and the third, of personal property, the duty of care in its control, and the duties imposed upon a person using fire.

If, with the help of the index, which is a good one, one chances to find the subject discussed, of which he is in search, he will find it discussed carefully, thoroughly and well. The propositions of law are clearly and concisely stated, and well backed up by authorities, including the most recent.

The author, judging from his comments (on pages 30-33) upon the case of *Nolan v. R. R. Co.*, 53 Conn. 416, does not seem to have quite comprehended it, but in the main, so far as verified, his statements are accurate.

On the whole, the book is a useful one, if once its peculiarities be mastered.